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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AID-01	AMAD-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00
	CIAE-00	SJK-01	CTME-00	C-01	DODE-00	DS-00	EB-01
	FBO-01	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19
	LAB-04	L-03	ADS-00	M-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06
	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPR-01	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01
	RP-10	SCT-03	SIL-01	SNP-01	SP-01	SR-01	SSC-01
	SSO-00	SS-01	STR-20	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	USSF-00
	FMP-01	/119W					

-----OFBEAE 151842Z /38

P 151837Z FEB 92
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8420
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 01728

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, MARR, PINR, PHUM, ASEC, PGOV, VE
SUBJECT: PART 9: AFTER THE COUP ATTEMPT, FEBRUARY 15:
- NUGGETS

REF: CARACAS 1679

1. CAP IN SUCRE
- -----

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ON FEB. 14 PRESIDENT PEREZ (CAP) TRAVELLED TO THE CITIES
OF CARUPANO AND CUMANA (SUCRE STATE) TO SPEAK AT THE
CEREMONIES MARKING THE FORMAL TRANSFER OF THE CITIES'
PORTS FROM THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO THE STATE
GOVERNMENT. (THE GOVERNOR HAD ALREADY ANNOUNCED THAT
HE, IN TURN, WOULD PRIVATIZE PORT ADMINISTRATION.)
CAP'S SPEECHES INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

- THE COUP PLOTTERS MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT THAT THEY WOULD
RECEIVE PUBLIC SUPPORT, BUT THE PEOPLE DEMONSTRATED
FAITH IN THEIR INSTITUTIONS. "NEVERTHELESS, LET IT BE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 03 AUG 2006 200503206

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RECOGNIZED THAT IN THE COUNTRY THERE WERE OR PERSIST SOME SIGNS OF WEAKENING OF THE SYSTEM. WE ARE OBLIGATED TO REFLECT SERIOUSLY ON THIS..."

- "DEMOCRACY HAS NOT GIVEN TO VENEZUELA ALL THAT IT SHOULD HAVE GIVEN IT; THERE ARE IMPORTANT DEFICIENCIES IN ITS INSTITUTIONS, IN THE OPERATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT, IN THE CONDUCT AND LEADERSHIP OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES, IN THE ACTIVITY OF DIVERSE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS..."

- "THIS UNFORTUNATE EVENT MUST SERVE TO TEACH US A LESSON, TO DO THE ANALYSIS THAT WILL BRING US TO HARMONIZE OUR TASKS WITH THE DESIRES OF THE PEOPLE...WE MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS CIRCUMSTANCE TO CONVOKE A NATIONAL ACCORD AND PLEDGE OURSELVES TO REALIZE THE REFORMS AND TRANSFORMATIONS THAT THE COUNTRY NEEDS."

- "THE MODERNIZATION IMPOSED BY THIS GOVERNMENT HAS SERVED TO TEAR DOWN SYSTEMS OF CORRUPTION -- THERE CAN
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NO LONGER BE TRAFFIC IN PREFERENTIAL DOLLARS OR EXPORT LICENSES BECAUSE THEY NO LONGER EXIST...NOW ONE CANNOT NEGOTIATE THE BIG CONTRACTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE BIDS ARE SUBMITTED AND THIS IS A TRANSPARENT PROCESS."

- THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE A SEVERE ATTITUDE TOWARD CORRUPTION.

2. RANGEL TO USLAR PIETRI
- -----

IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE ANOTHER STEP IN A CAMPAIGN TO POINT OUT THAT ECONOMIC REFORMS REDUCE CORRUPTION, THE GOVERNMENT RELEASED THE TEXT OF A LETTER FROM MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY BEATRICE RANGEL TO PUBLIC PROSECUTOR RAMON ESCOVAR SALOM, ASKING HIM TO INVESTIGATE CHARGES RAISED BY NOTED INTELLECTUAL ARTURO USLAR PIETRI. (ESCOVAR SALOM IS NOT PART OF THE CAP ADMINISTRATION. HE HEADS THE PUBLIC MINISTRY, WHICH IS TECHNICALLY A FOURTH BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT, AND HE CANNOT BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE BY CAP.) IN A FEB. 8 PRESS INTERVIEW, USLAR, WITHOUT NAMING NAMES, HAD STATED THAT "GIGANTIC FORTUNES ARE BEING MADE IN THE SHADOW OF THE GOVERNMENT AND IN CONNECTION WITH IT." ACCORDING TO RANGEL'S

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RESPONSE, THE GOVERNMENT "HAS EXERTED ITSELF SEVERELY TO ERRADICATE CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC ACTIVITIES AND WE HAVE HAD THE GOAL OF TRANSPARENCY IN DECISIONS. THE ECONOMIC POLICIES ADOPTED, FAR FROM SEEKING A CONCENTRATION OF WEALTH...PERMIT THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL IN INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE."

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3. HUMAN RIGHTS

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- ANDRES ELOY BLANCO, HEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE, TOLD REPORTERS ON FEB. 14 THAT THE QUESTION OF RESTORING SOME OF THE SUSPENDED CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES "CONTINUES TO BE STUDIED AND IT IS ESTIMATED THAT IN A SHORT TIME, THIS WEEKEND, THE GUARANTEES OF FREE TRANSIT, THE RIGHT TO STRIKE, AND LIBERTY OF EXPRESSION CAN BE RESTORED."

- GEN. JACOBO YEPEZ DAZA, HEAD OF THE INSTITUTE OF RETIRED OFFICERS, WAS RELEASED FROM CUSTODY ON FEB. 14. YEPEZ DAZA HAD BEEN DETAINED AFTER PUBLICATION BY THE INSTITUTE OF AN ADVERTISEMENT CRITICAL OF THE GOV.

4. MILITARY-CIVILIAN RELATIONS

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8421

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 CARACAS 01728

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, MARR, PINR, PHUM, ASEC, PGOV, VE

SUBJECT: PART 9: AFTER THE COUP ATTEMPT, FEBRUARY 15:

- FOLLOWING THE DEFENSE MINISTER'S FEB. 13 CALL ON THE COUNTRY'S "NATIONAL LEADERSHIP" TO "RESPECT THE HONOR OF THE ARMED FORCES", PROMINENT POLITICIANS FROM ACCION DEMOCRATICA (AD), COPEI, AND THE MOVEMENT TOWARD

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SOCIALISM STATED THAT THE DEMOCRATIC CHARACTER OF THE ARMED FORCES WAS NOT BEING QUESTIONED. IN CARUPANO CAP SAID, "THE ARMED FORCES REITERATED AND RATIFIED THEIR DEMOCRATIC PRESENCE, RESPECTFUL OF THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAW, AND THEY SAID TO VENEZUELAN AND THE WORLD THAT IN THEM RESTS, WITH FIRMNESS AND NOBILITY, THE SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY'S DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS."

5. AD

- TO THE DISMAY OF AD'S LEADERSHIP, CAP POSTPONED FOR THE SECOND DAY IN A ROW HIS SCHEDULED MEETING WITH THEM TO DISCUSS RAMIFICATIONS AND RESPONSES TO THE COUP ATTEMPT.

- FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF COPEI'S EDUARDO

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FERNANDEZ, AD PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL CARMELO LAURIA
ANNOUNCED HIS OWN PACKAGE OF "ALTERNATIVES" TO CAP'S
POLICIES. THE PLAN AIMS AT IMPROVING SECURITY, HEALTH,
TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING, AND AT PROVIDING THE PUBLIC
WITH A "MARKET BASKET" OF FOOD AND MEDICINE "AT
REASONABLE PRICES." WHETHER THE LATTER OBJECTIVE WOULD
BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH PRICE CONTROLS IS NOT STATED.
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